

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided in the present application. Claims 1-3 are currently pending in the instant application. Claim 1 is independent and claim 1 has been amended. Reconsideration of the present application is earnestly solicited.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Kobayashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,781,818). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of the unique combination of limitations of the claimed invention. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

For example, with respect to claim 1, Applicants submit that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of the unique combination of limitations of the claimed invention, including the feature(s) of: "a selection device which prohibits the serial communication" with the lens apparatus and the camera body through the serial and parallel communication interface. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

A unique feature of the claimed invention is that the selection device can prohibit serial communication and switch to parallel communication. If there is any problem caused by the serial communication when the serial communication is available between the lens apparatus and the camera body, it prohibits the serial communication and switches to

parallel communication. The claimed invention includes the unique feature of the selection device provided in the lens apparatus that is capable of prohibiting serial communication with a camera body and may perform serial and parallel communication. Since the selection device is not provided in the camera body, but in the lens apparatus, electronic signals are not transferred to the camera body that may otherwise adversely affect the camera body. Parallel communication is also performed when the serial communication is prohibited. The claimed invention also provides the advantage of a processing speed of a processing circuit is reduced when serial communication is prohibited.

In contrast, Kobayashi describes a lens apparatus capable of performing serial communication with a camera body and a selection device for prohibiting the serial communication is provided *in the camera body* and not in the lens apparatus (emphasis added). The lens apparatus of Kobayashi also cannot perform parallel communication with the camera body. Accordingly, the lens apparatus of Kobayashi does not perform parallel communication with the camera body when the serial communication is prohibited. In addition, Kobayashi does not describe a processing speed in the lens apparatus being reduced when the serial communication is prohibited. Accordingly, these rejections should be withdrawn.

In accordance with the above discussion of the patent(s) relied upon by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully submit that these documents, either in combination

together or standing alone, fail to teach or suggest the invention as is set forth by the claims of the instant application.

As to the dependent claims, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable due to their dependence upon an allowable independent claim, as well as for additional limitations provided by these claims. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining references cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state-of-the-art, no further comments are deemed necessary with respect thereto.

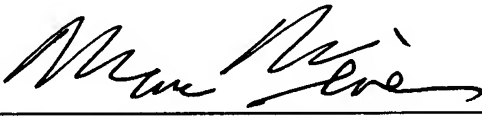
All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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